

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Amendments to the specification are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page 4).

Replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 3 through 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 illustrates a third alternative embodiment in which the FPA detector 330 is positioned in the distal end of the laser endoscope. Since the FPA detector 330 is provided without the intervening collection bundle, the full spatial resolution of the FPA detector 330 can be realized. A lens 240 is provided so that an image is formed on the FPA detector while an optical filtering device 340, such as an acousto-optic filter, is positioned between lens 240 and the FPA 330 to enable isolation of the spectral bands of interest. Power to the FPA detector 330 and signals representing the detected images are transmitted by cable 310. Since the FPA detector must be cooled for proper operation, it is set in a heat sink 320 which receives coolant from line 300.

REMARKS

The specification was amended on September 15, 1997 and herein to render moot the issues raised in the objection to the drawings.

Claims 29-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and are filing a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 to rebut this rejection.

Claims 15-17, 19-24 and 26-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano et al. (5,293,872) in view of Lewis et al. and Ito or Nagasaki. Claims 18 and 25 have also been rejected based on the above combination of references and further in view of Sekiguchi.